

## LAW

To LANCH. *v. d.*

1. To p. sh. to sea.

All art is used to sink episcopacy, and *launch* prebiterary, in England.With flays and cordage last he rigg'd the ship, *Pope.*And roll'd on leavers, *launch'd* her in the deep. *Pope.*2. To dart from the hand. This perhaps, for distinction sake, might better be written *launch*.

The King of Heav'n, obscure on high,

Bar'd his red arm, and *launching* from the sky

His withen bolt, not shaking empty smoke,

Down to the deep abyss the flaming fellow strook. *Dryd.*LAUND. *n. f.* [*lande*, French; *laun*, Welsh.] Lawn a plain extended between woods. *Hammer.*

Under this thick-grown brake we'll shroud ourselves,

For through this *laund* anon the deer will come;

And in this covert will we make our stand,

Culling the principal of all the deer. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*LAUNDRESS. *n. f.* [*lavandiera*, French; *Skinner* imagines that *lavandresse* may have been the old word.] A woman whose employment is to wash cloths.

The countess of Richmond would often say, On condition

the princes of Christendom would march against the Turks, she

would willingly attend them, and be their *laundress*. *Camden.*

Take up these cloths here quickly; carry them to the

*laundress* in Datchet mead. *Shaksp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*The *laundress* must be sure to tear her smocks in the wash-ing, and yet wash them but half. *Swift.*LAUNDRY. *n. f.* [as if *lavandrie*.]

1. The room in which clothes are washed.

The affairs of the family ought to be consulted, whether

they concern the stable, dairy, the pantry, or *laundry*. *Swift.*

2. The act or state of washing.

Chalky water is too fretting, as appeareth in *laundry* ofcloths, which wear out apace. *Bacon's Natural History.*LAVOIR. *n. f.* [*la vau*, French.] An old dance, in whichwas much turning and I cannot sing. *Hammer.*Nor heel the high *lavoir*; nor sweeten talk;Nor play at fiddle games. *Shaksp. Troilus and Cressida.*LAUREATE. *adj.* [*laureatus*, Lat.] Decked or invested with a laurel.

Bid Amaranthus all his beauty shed,

And daffodillies fill their cups with tears,

To strew the *laureate* hearth where Lycid lies, *Milton.*Soft on her lap her *laureate* son reclines. *Dunciad.*LAUREATION. *n. f.* [from *laureate*.] It denotes, in the Scot-

tish universities, the act or state of having degrees conferred,

as they have in some of them a flowery crown, in imita-

tion of laurel among the antients.

LAUREL. *n. f.* [*laurus*, Lat. *laurier*, French.] A tree, called also the cherry bay.

It hath broad thick shining ever-green leaves, somewhat

like those of the bay tree; the cup of the flower is hollow,

and funnel-shaped, spreading open at the top, and is divided

into five parts: the flower consists of five leaves, which ex-

pand in form of a rose, having many stamens in the centre;

the fruit, which is like that of the cherry tree, is produced

in bunches, and the stone is longer and narrower than that

of the cherry. *Miller.*The *laurus* or *laurel* of the antients is affirmed by natura-lists to be what we call the bay tree. *Ainsworth.*The *laurel*, meed of mighty conquerors,And poets sage. *Spenser's Fairy Queen.*The *laurel* or cherry-bay, by cutting away the side branches,will rise to a large tree. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*LAURELED. *adj.* [from *laurel*.] Crowned or decorated with laurel.

Hear'st thou the news? my friend! th' express is come

With *laurel'd* letters from the camp to Rome. *Dryden.*

Then future ages with delight shall see

How Plato's, Bacon's, Newton's, looks agree;

Or in fair series *laurel'd* bards be shownA Virgil there, and here an Addison. *Pope.*LAW. *n. f.* [*lagu*, Saxon; *loi*, French; *lawg*, Erse.]

1. A rule of action.

Unhappy man! to break the pious *law*Of nature, pleading in his children's cause. *Dryden.*

2. A decree, edict, statute, or custom, publicly established as

a rule of justice.

He hath resisted *law*,And therefore *law* shall scorn him further trialThan the severity of publick power. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*

Thou art a robber,

A *law-breaker*, a villain; yield thee, thief. *Shaksp. Lear.*Our nation would not give *law* to the Irish, thereforenow the Irish gave *law* to them. *Davies on Ireland.*One *law* is split into two. *Baker Refect. on Learning.*

3. Judicial process.

When every case in *law* is right. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

Who has a breast so pure,

But some uncleanly apprehensions

Keep leets and *law* days, and in sessions sit,With meditations *lawful*. *Shaksp. Othello.*

## LAW

Tom Touchy is a fellow famous for taking the *law* of every body: there is not one in the town where he lives that he has not sued at a quarter-sessions. *Addison's Spectator.*4. Conformity to law; any thing *lawful*.

In a rebellion,

When what's not meet, but what must be, was *law*,Then were they chosen. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*

5. An established and constant mode or process; a fixed cor-

respondence of cause and effect.

I dy'd, whilst in the womb he stay'd,

Attending Nature's *law*. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*LA'WFUL. *adj.* [*law* and *full*.] Agreeable to law; conform-

able to law; allowed legal by law; legitimate.

It is not *lawful* for thee to have her.

Gloster's bastard son was kinder to his father, than my

daughters, got 'tween the *lawful* sheets. *Shaksp. King Lear.*LA'WFULLY. *adv.* [from *lawful*.] Legally; agreeably to law.

This bond is forfeit;

And *lawfully* by this the Jew may claimA pound of flesh. *Shaksp. Merchant of Venice.*

Though it be not against strict justice for a man to do

those things which he might otherwise *lawfully* do, albeit his

neighbour doth take occasion from thence to conceive in his

mind a false belief, yet Christian charity will, in many cases,

restrain a man. *Saith's Sermons.*

I may be allowed to tell your lordship, the king of poets,

what an extent of power you have, and how *lawfully* youmay exercise it. *Dryden's Dedication to Juvenal.*LA'WFULNESS. *n. f.* [from *lawful*.] Legality; allowance of*law*.

I think it were an error to speak further, till I may see

some found foundation laid of the *lawfulness* of the action.

Bacon's Holy War.

LA'WGIVER. *n. f.* [*law* and *giver*.] Legislator; one that makes*laws*.Solomon we esteem as the *lawgiver* of our nation. *Bacon.*

A law may be very reasonable in itself, although one does

not know the reason of the *lawgiver*. *Swift.*LA'WGIVING. *adj.* [*law* and *giving*.] Legislative.

Lawgiving heroes, fam'd for taming brutes,

And raising cities with their charming lutes. *Waller.*LA'WLESS. *adj.* [from *law*.]

1. Unrestrained by any law; not subject to law.

The necessity of war, which among human actions is the

most *lawless*, hath some kind of affinity with the necessity of*law*. *Raleigh's Essays.*The *lawless* tyrant, who denies

To know their God, or message to regard,

Must be compell'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost, l. xii.*

Orpheus did not, as poets feign, tame savage beasts,

But men as *lawless*, and as wild as they. *Resonance.*

Not the gods, nor angry Jove will bear

Thy *lawless* wand'ring walks in open air. *Dryd. Æn.*

Blind as the Cyclops, and as blind as he,

They own'd a *lawless* savage liberty,

Like that our painted ancestors do prize'd.

Ere empire's arts their breasts had civiliz'd. *Dryden.*He Meteor-like, flames *lawless* through the void,Destroying others, by himself destroy'd. *Pope.*

2. Contrary to law; illegal.

Take not the quarrel from his powerful arms,

He needs no indirect nor *lawless* courseTo cut off those that have offended him. *Shaksp. R. III.*

We cite our faults,

That they may hold excus'd our *lawless* lives. *Shaksp.*Thou the first, lay down thy *lawless* claim;Thou of my blood who bear'st the Julian name. *Dryden.*LA'WLESSLY. *adv.* [from *lawless*.] In a manner contrary to*law*.

Fear not, he bears an honourable mind,

And will not use a woman *lawlessly*. *Shaksp. Lear.*LA'WMAKER. *n. f.* [*law* and *maker*.] Legislator; one who

makes laws; a lawgiver.

Their judgment is, that the church of Christ should ad-

mit no *lawmakers* but the evangelists. *Hosker, b. iii.*LAWN. *n. f.* [*land*, Danish; *laun*, Welsh; *lande*, French.]

1. An open space between woods,

Betwixt them *lawns*, or level downs, and hocks,Grazing the tender herb, were interpos'd. *Milt. P. Loff.*

His mountains were in a few years shaded with young

trees, that gradually shot up into groves, woods, and fo-

rests, intermixed with walks, and *lawns*, and gardens.

Addison's Spectator, N. 58.

Stern beasts in trains that by his truncheon fell,

Now grilly forms shoot o'er the *lawns* of hell. *Pope.*Interpers'd in *lawns* and opening glades,Thin trees arise that flun each other's shades. *Pope.*

2. [Linn. French.] Fine linen, remarkable for being used in

the sleeves of bishops.

Should'st thou bleed,

To stop the wounds my finest *lawn* I'd tear,Wash them with tears, and wipe them with my hair. *Prior.*

## LAY

From high life high characters are drawn,  
A faint in crape is twice a faint in *lawn*. *Pope.*

What awe did the flow solemn knell inspire:

The duties by the *lawn* rob'd prelate pay'd, *Tickell.*

And the last words, that dust to dust convey'd!

LA'WSUIT. *n. f.* [*law* and *suit*.] A process in law; a litiga-

tion.

The giving the priest a right to the tithe would produce

*lawsuits* and wrangles; his necessary attendance on the courtsof justice would leave his people without a spiritual guide. *Swift's Proposal.*LA'WYER. *n. f.* [from *law*.] Professor of law; advocate;

pleader.

It is like the breath of an unfeeling lawyer, you gave me no-

thing for it. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

Is the law evil, because some lawyers in their office twere

from it? *White.*

I have entered into a work touching laws, in a middle

term, between the speculative and reverend discourses of phi-

losophers, and the writings of lawyers. *Bacon's Holy War.*

The nymphs with scorn beheld their foes,

And what no lawyer ever lack'd,

With impudence own'd all the fact. *Swift.*LAX. *adj.* [*laxus*, Latin.]

1. Loose; not confined; not closely joined.

Inhabit *lax*, ye pow'rs of heav'n! *Milton's Par. Lost.*

In mines, those parts of the earth which abound with

strata of stone, suffer much more than those which consist of

gravel, and the like *laxer* matter, which more easily giveway. *Woodward.*

2. Vague; not rigidly exact.

Dialogues were only *lax* and moral discourses. *Baker.*3. Loose in body, so as to go frequently to stool; *laxative*medicines are such as promote that disposition. *Quincy.*

4. Slack; not tense.

By a branch of the auditory nerve that goes between the

ear and the palate, they can hear themselves, though their

outward ear be stop'd by the *lax* membrane to all sounds thatcome that way. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*LAX. *n. f.* A looseness; a diarrhoea.LAXATION. *n. f.* [*laxatio*, Latin.]

1. The act of loosening or slackening.

2. The state of being loosened or slackened.

LAXATIVE. *adj.* [*laxativus*, French; *laxo*, Latin.] Having the

power to ease costiveness.

Omitting honey, which is of a *laxative* power itself; the

powder of some loadstones in this doth rather constipate and

bind, than purge and loosen the belly. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*The oil in wax is emollient, *laxative*, and anodyne.LAXATIVE. *n. f.* A medicine slightly purgative; a medicine

that relaxes the bowels without stimulation.

Nought profits him to save abandon'd life,

Nor vomits upward aid, nor downward *laxative*. *Dryd.*LAXATIVENESS. *n. f.* [*laxativus*.] Power of easing costiveness.LAXITY. *n. f.* [*laxitas*, Latin.]

1. Not compression; not close cohesion.

The former causes could never beget whirlpools in a chaos

of so great a *laxity* and thinness. *Bentley's Sermons.*

2. Contrariety to rigorous precision.

3. Looseness; not costiveness.

If sometimes it cause any *laxity*, it is in the same way with

iron unprepared, which will disturb some bones, and work

by purge and vomit. *Brown's Vulg. Errours.*

4. Slackness; contrariety to tension.

*Laxity* of a fibre, is that degree of cohesion in its parts

which a small force can alter, so as to increase its length be-

yond what is natural. *Quincy.*In consideration of the *laxity* of their eyes, they are sub-ject to relapse. *Wijeman's Surgery.*

5. Openness; not closeness.

Hold a piece of paper close by the flame of a candle, and

by little and little remove it further off, and there is upon

the paper some part of that which I see in the candle, and it

grows still less and less as I remove; so that if I would

trust my sense, I should believe it as very a body upon the

paper as in the candle, though inebled by the *laxity* ofthe channel in which it flows. *Digby on Bodies.*LAXNESS. *n. f.* *Laxity*; not tension; not precision; not co-

stiveness.

For the free passage of the sound into the ear, it is requi-

site that the tympanum be tense, and hard stretched; other-

wise the *laxness* of that membrane will certainly dead anddamp the sound. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*LAX. Pretense of *lay*.O! would the quarrel *lay* upon our heads,

And that no man might draw short breath to day,

But I and Harry Monmouth. *Shaksp. Henry IV.*

He was familiarly acquainted with him at such time as he

lay ambassador at Constantinople. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*